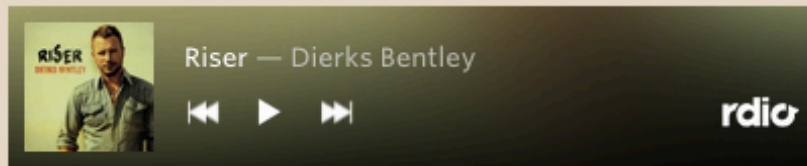
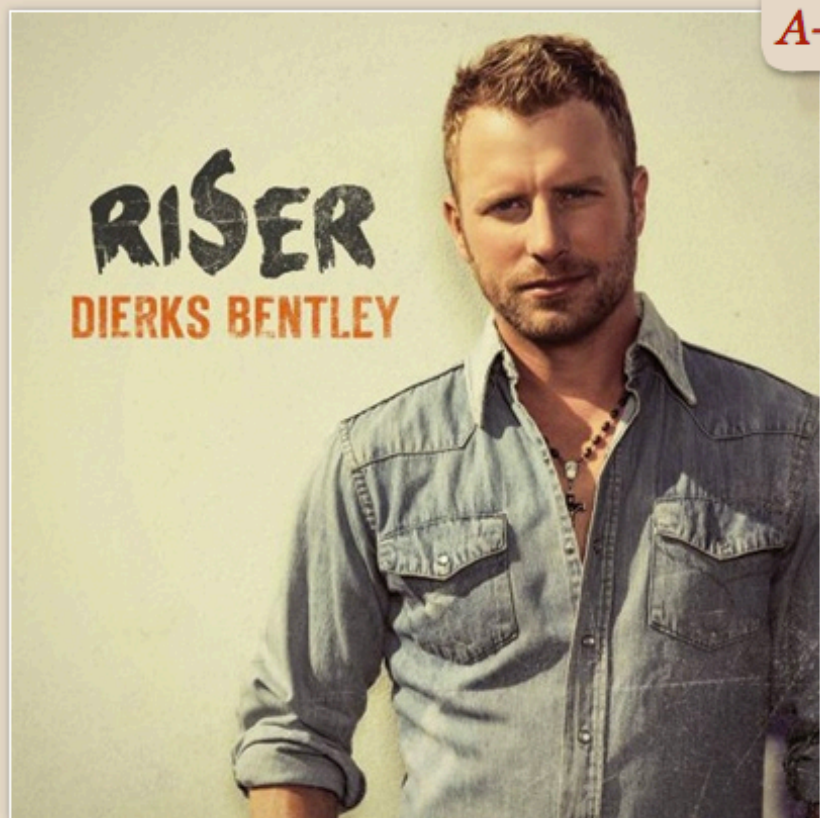


# NASH Country Weekly®

COUNTRY FOR LIFE

## *“Riser” by Dierks Bentley*



Finally, one year and four months after the release of Dierks Bentley’s album *Riser*, the collection’s centerpiece title track is now an official single. Penned by Travis Meadows and Steve Moakler, it’s not some happy-go-lucky tale about how everything’s gonna be OK and we’ll all ride off into the sunset together. No, it comes by its optimism the hard, real way: by knowing and acknowledging that you’re gonna get knocked down from time to time, but that it’s what you do as a result that makes you truly resilient. It’s a message that Dierks seems to embody, never having been the guy winning all the awards for his music but finding a way to succeed

anyway. This world is cold and getting colder / and I know how to lock and bolt the door, he advises some unnamed lover in his rough-edged baritone as the kick drum thumps away and U2-esque electric guitar textures ping all around him. He goes on to detail his will to keep fighting through the chorus, rhyming the title with several other similar-sounding words. They don't all work (riser / fighter / survivor are different enough that it sounds a little awkward) but that doesn't diminish the message or the way the production sounds great no matter where you're listening to it. And, seriously, if you aren't certain you can take on hell and come out on the other side after hearing this one, you may need to give it another spin (or two) to let the message sink in.

Long Story Short: Dierks' latest may not play at parties, but it's geared to inspire more victories than it is hangovers.